

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 469 without my signature.

When special interests dominate Sacramento, the only recourse the people of California have is the initiative, the referendum and the recall. As I have previously said, at the very heart of the initiative process is the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the core value of political speech. Any burden placed on either of these fundamental rights of Californians must be examined through a lens that favors the right of the people to address grievances with the government through initiatives, referendums, and recalls.

This bill requires different notices on petitions to reflect whether it is being circulated by a paid or volunteer circulator. The paid or volunteer status of a circulator has no bearing on the merits of the petition being presented to voters. Furthermore, under existing law, petitions must contain the following notice in 12 point type: NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC - THIS PETITION IS BEING CIRCULATED BY A PAID SIGNATURE GATHERER OR A VOLUNTEER. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK.

This bill attacks the initiative process and makes it more difficult for the people of California to gather signatures and qualify measures for the ballot. While difficulty of the process may be a good thing for big-money special interests and for political consultants who stand to gain financially, it is not for everyday Californians with an idea for reform.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger